

**ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC-SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICIALS-  
INTERNATIONAL, INC. (APCO)  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE (IACP)  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS (IAFC)**

February 25, 2011

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WT Docket 02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 11, 2011, Sprint Nextel filed a request for partial waiver of the Commission's current requirement that it clear all 800 MHz interleaved channels in 21 non-border regions by March 31, 2011. Sprint Nextel is now requesting one additional year to clear interleaved channels in 9 of the 21 regions. The interleaved channels, once cleared by Sprint Nextel, will become available for new applications from public safety entities, alleviating serious spectrum shortages that exist in many parts of the nation in the 800 MHz band.

APCO, IACP and IAFC are pleased that interleaved channels are being cleared by Sprint in a significant number of regions pursuant to the Commission's prior order. However, we are deeply concerned with the potential delay in clearing spectrum in the remaining nine regions. The regions in question include the New York, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, and Baltimore-Washington metropolitan areas, in addition to all of Northern California (including the San Francisco-Oakland metropolitan area), and the entire states of Florida (with such major metropolitan areas as Miami, Orlando, Tampa, and Jacksonville), Alabama, and Louisiana (including New Orleans). These are areas with significant pent-up demand for additional public safety spectrum in the 800 MHz band.

Therefore, we urge the Commission to take appropriate steps to expedite the release of all interleaved channels in all non-border areas. To the extent that the Commission nevertheless grants some degree of relief to Sprint Nextel, similar flexibility should be exhibited when considering requests from public safety entities to gain earlier access to interleaved channels. In particular, relief should be available for public safety applicants that can demonstrate an immediate need for 800 MHz channels, the lack of reasonable alternatives, and that they have the full support of the relevant regional planning committees.

APCO, IACP and IAFC appreciate the Commission's continued commitment to a rebanding process that eliminates interference and provides additional 800 MHz channels for public safety communications.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cc: Larry Krevor, Sprint Nextel  
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